

Dear Sirs:

I spent several years working as a patent attorney for Defense contractors during which a few of the applications that I filed were placed under secrecy order. Because the secrecy order review is operated by the Dept. of Defense and because the goals and mission of the Dept. of Defense is fairly clear and has been developed over the course of 200 years, this was not an onerous burden and we generally knew the types of applications which were liable to be effected.

I think this economic security idea is a bad one unless it is to be operated by the Dept. of Defense using guidelines that they develop and understand for purposes of our national security. In such a case, it would be the same as the current program except that applications that affect our security but are of an economic nature would also be reviewed.

On the other hand, if somehow the Dept. of Commerce or another department were to develop a new agency initiative to review applications, then there will be serious negative consequences and domestic industry will be harmed by the delays in prosecution and any secrecy orders. There is no clear, long developed goal and mission of the Dept. of Commerce to protect our economic security. I imagine that the Dept. of Commerce would be hard pressed to clearly and concisely articulate how our economy will be protected from outside threats by keeping US patents secret.

I would urge the Office and Congress to abandon this initiative.

Gordon Lindeen | Partner
BSTZ | 8055 E. Tufts Ave., Suite 1300 | Denver, CO 80237-2835
Phone 303.740.1980 | Fax 303.740.6962
gordon_lindeen@bstz.com | www.bstz.com